

ERIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWS

January 2009



1 Corinthians 14:12 Since you are eager to have spiritual gifts, try to excel in gifts that build up the church.

Dear Friends,

Many years ago, when I was still a child, I can remember getting my first Lego set for Christmas. I was amazed at how all of the brightly colored plastic bricks joined together so easily. Like every other child, I made houses and robots, planes and rockets with the bricks. I spent hours making up new designs and just loved creating things that came from my own imagination. There just seemed to be a never ending supply of things to build up each day.

I love watching young children do the same today. It just seems so natural to see them enjoy making things. It's as if they are all endowed with the spirit of our Creator. I guess we enjoy building things in much the same way that God did when He created the Universe.

Over the years, our wee church has built up, too. It always amazes me how so many different people, from different backgrounds, blend their skills and gifts together to create a slightly different and better congregation each year. God keeps calling new people, new families, and new members to become a part of our family of faith, who are welcomed, encouraged, and embraced by those of us who have been here for a while.

Through the blessings of Christ and to the glory of God, what we have achieved at Erin is remarkable. From the youngest child to the eldest adult, we have been blessed with people who are eager to realize, discover, and share their spiritual gifts, so that this wee congregation can make an impact in our community, across the country, and throughout the world.

We may live in uncertain times, but this fact remains certain: those who honor God will be honored by Him. 2009 promises to be a year of new beginnings, bigger ministries, and more effective missions for our church. It's as if God has given us a large box of brightly colored spiritual Lego bricks, and He is just as excited as we are, to see what we will make with them.

I pray that this New Year will become a happy and prosperous time for all of us. I firmly believe that God continues to do marvelous things at Erin because we try to put Christ first in all that we undertake and accomplish. I look forward to seeing new people walk through our doors to worship, study, and do ministry with us. And I am really excited about more members getting to know God better and reaching out to one another, as disciples and friends in Christ.

May God bless all of your hopes and dreams for this New Year.

John



We would like to express our condolences to the family Jeanne Ayers. Jeanne has been a member of Erin Presbyterian in 1968. Our dear friend will be missed.

Session meets Thursday, January 15th @ 7:00pm in the Heritage Room

January Sundays

January 4

Communion Sunday
2nd Sunday after Christmas
 Psalm 147:12-20 & John 1:10-18
“Identity Crisis”

January 11

Baptism of the Lord
 Psalm 29:1-9 & Mark 1:4-11
“That’s My Boy”

January 18

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
 Psalm 139:1-6 & John 1:43-51
“Humble Beginnings”

January 25

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
 Psalm 62:5-12 & Mark 1:14-20
“It’s About Time”

January Birthdays

(This may not be an accurate list and some names may be missing. If so, please accept our apologies)



Joe Tate	January 3
Audry Cafego	January 4
Suzanne Hickman	January 4
Maud Hoover	January 4
John Moxham	January 4
Lanie Webb	January 4
Gary Blackburn	January 5
Mary Nelle Cate	January 6
Tracy Foster	January 6
Jeff Waters	January 6
Chloe Webb	January 6
Margaret Dugger	January 7
Mae Brandon	January 10
Laurel Breyen	January 10
Maeve Smith	January 10
Pat Fitch	January 11
Kelli Crisp	January 12
Jose Luis Vowell	January 15
Shane Crisp	January 15
J. Ross McKenry	January 17
Tara Link	January 19
Laurie Stapleton	January 19
LouL Tate	January 19
Annie Getz	January 20
Al Wallin	January 21
Jada Cable	January 24
Marjorie Swanner	January 25
Tim Jenness	January 26
Mike Jackson	January 28
Thomas Pearson	January 29
Andy Jaynes	January 30
Carl McHargue	January 30
Lora Yard	January 30
Kathy McClellan	January 31
Rob McLeod	January 31

First Days of February

Ginger Thompson	February 2
Randy Bishop	February 5
Margaret Casteel	February 6
Sonja Funk	February 7

ENRICHMENT SCHEDULE

The following is the January schedule for Enrichment - if you are unable to attend on your scheduled date, please contact someone to take your place:

	January 4		
Pam Pfeifer	Julie Simpson	Heather Ritchie	
	January 11		
Tim Jenness	Dana McKenry	Kim Pennington	
	January 18		
Pam Pfeifer	Siri Hamilton	Apryl Quinn	
	January 25		
Shane Crisp	Jamie Webb	Sherry Draper	



Hear Rev. Stuart on Mon 10AM-12noon on WQBB 1040AM as a regular guest on the talk show "The Voice."

*Your birthday not listed?
 Please call the office at 588-5350.*

DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY

Children's Sunday School

The Discipleship Team needs a Sunday school teacher for the spring semester for the elementary school kids. The opening is the arts and crafts/cooking rotation. Basically this rotation teaches the same thing 3 weeks in a row with different kids each week and the 4th week is an "off" week. What a blessing it is to help these children come to and understand Christ. If you are moved by the Holy Spirit to share in this ministry please contact Pam Pfeifer or Anna McKay.

Opportunities for Bible Study

As well as our Sunday School morning classes, the pastor leads two study groups each week.

On Monday nights at 7.15pm, our book study group meets until about 8.30pm in the parlor. During January, they will be finishing up their discussion on William P. Young's best-selling book, "The Shack."

On Wednesday mornings, at 10.30am, the pastor leads a Bible Chapter-a-Week study group. It meets for about an hour in the parlor. Throughout January and February, the group will be learning about and discussing the last chapters from the Book of Judges, which includes the Samson stories. Both groups welcome all-comers and encourage everyone to build up friendship, fellowship, and faith.

The pastor also writes a daily devotional based upon the daily follow up readings printed in the worship bulletin. This is sent to over a hundred people each day via email. If you would like to receive the devotionals this year, go to our web page at www.erinpresbyterian.org and simply sign up for them.

Reminder: Knox County Schools will be closed on January 19 for the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.



The new flower calendar is in the narthex – please check your calendar and sign up for the dates you wish to order the sanctuary flowers for worship. The cost is \$25 each, which may be placed in the offering plate on the day your flowers are in the sanctuary.



Parents of Youth: remember to check the blog for dates and times: www.erin youth.blogspot.com

PW NEWS

Start the New Year right – visit one of our Circles:

Circle IV meets at 7:00pm on Monday, January 12 at Mary Scarbrough's house. **Circle II** meets at 10:00am on Tuesday, January 13 in the parlor. Our Bible study this year is "Jubilee, Luke's Gospel to the Poor." We look forward to seeing you in January!



FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY

Wednesday Night Dinner and the various programs will begin on January 14th! Parents get an evening out of the kitchen - dinner begins at 5:45, and sign ups will be in each Sunday's bulletin, or you may call the church office. At 6:30, children participate in "Matter of Faith," our Bible/science class. The women have a Bible study in the parlor, and the men's class is in the Heritage room. Handbells also practice at that time - contact Nancy Berry if you are interested.

As always, help is needed in the Kitchen both before and after dinner. If you are able to donate you time and skills for cooking or cleaning, please contact the office at 588-5350. We look forward to seeing you on Wednesdays!

Christmas Caroling

Thank you so much Christmas carolers – you helped make this the best Christmas ever! It was very thoughtful for you to take time out to come by and sing to us, and our aunt and grandmother were especially thrilled. You are all very appreciated.



--David & Brooks Eggers.

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY**BODY RECALL**

On Monday, January 12, 2009, classes begin again 4:00-4:55 PM in the Noah's Ark room. We would welcome some new faces to start the New Year.

Physical activity has therapeutic value. It is interesting to note that exercise is advised for so many medical and mental conditions. It helps lower weight, blood pressure, and cholesterol. It stimulates the central nervous system as well as all parts of the body. Arthritis can be helped rather than hurt when exercise is engaged in regularly. It lessens stress, depression, and feelings of inadequacy.

A session of exercise will bring more oxygen to the brain, making the day go better and helping your psyche into clearer focus.

Come join us each Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 4:00 PM in Noah's Ark room.

Won't hurt to try. "Use it or lose it!"

Ron Roberts

Certified Body Recall Instructor.



Men's Breakfast Start the new year right – with the Men of Erin! Join us Saturday January 17 over a hearty breakfast in the fellowship hall. We will begin at 8:45ish. Bring your appetite!

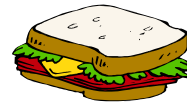
LET'S DO DINNER
*will NOT meet in
January*



Yarn Overs – our January Thursday meetings include the 8th and the 22nd @ 6:30pm – we look forward to seeing you!



Reminder all teams/committees/teachers/leaders – Annual reports are due to Sunday, January 11. Please email submissions to admin@erinpresbyterian.org. It is very important that the Erin community be informed regarding the various aspects of Erin's involvement in community outreach, education and the current programs which enhance worship and spiritual growth.



The SAM Sack Lunch is scheduled for Thursday, January 15 at noon. (SAM Council will meet at 10:30am.) Bring your own sandwich, and we will provide the chips-n-dip and pickles and drinks! You will not want to miss this month's guest - we will get a return visit from Dr. Bass, who will discuss current studies and discoveries on The Body Farm.

OUTREACH**CREATIVE EXPRESSIONS**

The Creative Expressions Ministry Team will meet Tuesday January 13 at 7:00pm. If you would like to participate in this exciting ministry, please contact Joe Jaynes, or simply join us at one of our monthly meetings, every second Tuesday. We hope to see you there!

**Christmas Joy Offering**

Thank you for your continued support for Presbyterian Missions! Erin collected \$1,218.84 for mission support. Your generosity will greatly help those in need!

MISSION MATTERS

Yesterday when Manjay and I finished our final shopping trip I told her we would write a thank you note. I asked what she wanted me to say, "Thank you, thank you very much everyone." You know there is much more we both want to say about your generosity. So, in a few more words; the shower and subsequent gifts are quickly making the new apartment a home.

We shopped on three different occasions and learned a bit about American gadgets as well. Who knew that extra towels can be hung on an over the door rack, and that shower curtains can have liners. Several other "eye openers" made the trips an adventure for both of us. The floors have some scatter rugs, windows have drapes or curtains, clothes have storage bins, some walls even have pictures, there are dishes, glasses, and many more conveniences making life "much better here" as Manjay often tells me.

Every now and then our conversations end on a very happy note as Manjay calls and says "I am happy, just too happy". Such a telephone conversation occurred just last evening as she told me that her new washing machine now has a dryer as well. What a blessing you are Erin folks!



STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY

We would like to thank the congregation for their efforts in getting their pledges turned in to us this year. We feel that the stewardship campaign this year helped raise the awareness of the importance of giving of our time, talents and treasures to the church. We were able to meet as a team and get a budget put together to present to Session for approval. The pledges help us tremendously in gauging the amount of income we will have for the year. This year is critical, as you all know; we are planning to create a position for a Christian Education person. This position will have many facets and can hopefully be of help to all ages from young to old in our education here at the church. We feel there is definitely a need for this person seeing the growth in our church.

We would also like to thank everyone for there giving in 2008. It has made our jobs as a ministry team much easier this year, knowing that the funds were there to fulfill our work here at Erin for our Ministries.

Treasurer Position Opening

The Stewardship Team and Session would like to Thank Bob McLean for his service in the capacity of treasurer at the church for the past several years. Bob has decided to let someone else give of his or her time to help in this capacity.

The treasurer, an agent of session, is to provide fiduciary responsibility for funds raised and expended, working in close coordination with the Pastor and the Administrative Assistant, to ensure that all funds, accounts, obligations and expenditures are handled safely, efficiently, appropriately and in a timely fashion.

The position requires you to be active in Stewardship Team meetings on a monthly basis. This individual is responsible for signing of checks on behalf of the church. The position requires oversight of accounts receivable and payable. There is a scope and job description available to anyone that is interested in giving of their time. The treasurer should be an ordained elder (not necessarily currently active on Session) in the Erin Presbyterian Church.

If you or someone that you know is interested in the position, please contact a current Elder or member of the Stewardship Committee.

You may want to consult with your tax advisor if you need to make any year-end donations as some of the dates have changed. Please, keep Erin in mind when making these decisions.

Special Charitable Contributions for Certain IRA Owners

An IRA owner, age 70 ½ or over, can directly transfer tax-free up to \$100,000 per year to an eligible charitable organization. This option, created in 2006 and recently extended through 2009, is available to eligible IRA owners, regardless of whether they itemize their deductions. Distributions from employer-sponsored retirement plans, including SIMPLE IRAs and simplified employee pension (SEP) plans, are not eligible.

To qualify, the funds must be contributed directly by the IRA trustee to the eligible charity. Amounts so transferred are not taxable and no deduction is available for the amount given to the charity. Not all charities are eligible. For example, donor-advised funds and supporting organizations are not eligible recipients.

Transferred amounts are counted in determining whether the owner has met the IRA's required minimum distribution rules. Where individuals have made nondeductible contributions to their traditional IRAs, a special rule treats transferred amounts as coming first from taxable funds, instead of proportionately from taxable and nontaxable funds, as would be the case with regular distributions. See Publication 590, Individual Retirement Arrangements (IRAs), for more information on qualified charitable distributions.

Do you have questions concerning your 2008 Tax return? Then join us on Wednesday, January 28 at 6:30pm for a "Tax Talk" with Ann Snodgrass. She will present new tax laws to help you maximize your deductions, and she will be available to answer specific questions during the latter part of the program. Please join us January 28, so you may get a head start for filing your taxes this year!



Stewardship Figures December 2008

	Dec 08	Dec 07
Income		
Creative Expressions	2,574.88	0.00
undesigned Property	0.00	20,000.00
Discipleship Fellowship	1,905.00	13,315.00
Stewardship Memorial	124.00	1,258.00
Outreach Offerings	1,343.00	10,795.00
PW Income	28.46	5,856.86
Total Income	930.00	50.00
	3,382.99	2,918.24
	45,083.52	42,449.00
	0.00	206.98
	55,371.85	56,849.08
Expense		
Creative Expressions	3,696.30	3,245.63
Property Team	2,236.54	32,896.89
Discipleship Team	881.95	426.81
Fellowship Team	1,547.09	2,292.52
Outreach Team	9,234.81	5,866.40
Stewardship Team	8,291.74	11,540.88
Worship Team	163.82	402.70
Pastoral Ministry Memorial	8,060.44	8,613.15
Expenses	0.00	248.55
PW expenses	108.12	125.47
Payroll Expenses	0.00	0.00
Total Expense	34,220.81	65,659.00
Net Income	21,151.04	-8,809.92

Job 37:1-6

At this my heart pounds and leaps from its place.
Listen! Listen to the roar of his voice, to the rumbling that comes from his mouth.
He unleashes his lightning beneath the whole heaven and sends it to the ends of the earth.
After that comes the sound of his roar; he thunders with his majestic voice. When his voice resounds, he holds nothing back.
God's voice thunders in marvelous ways; he does great things beyond our understanding.
He says to the snow, 'Fall on the earth,' and to the rain shower, 'Be a mighty downpour.'

John 3:31-36

"The one who comes from above is above all; the one who is from the earth belongs to the earth, and speaks as one from the earth. The one who comes from heaven is above all. He testifies to what he has seen and heard, but no one accepts his testimony. The man who has accepted it has certified that God is truthful. For the one whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God gives the Spirit without limit. The Father loves the Son and has placed everything in his hands. Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him."

A Loving Handful

John 3:35 The Father loves the Son and has placed everything in his hands.

I'm the eldest son in my family and in Scotland that means I would have been given the responsibility of looking after my father's estate. But because I live in America, that wasn't possible, and so my Dad entrusted it all to my brother Andy.

Andy did a terrific job with what was entrusted to his care. He saw to all the funeral arrangements, the bills that had to be paid, and all of the hundreds of loose ends that had to be tied up. In fact, Andy did a better job of it than I ever could, and my Dad would have been proud of how he handled everything.

Even to this day, Andy looks after the royalties that are still paid on my Dad's books. Every year, Andy receives them from the publishers and he carefully distributes them to all of the family. In this way, he honors my dad and does what it fair.

I love the fact that God placed everything into Christ's hands. He knew that Jesus would fulfill His obligations and complete the task of salvation. God had made promises to His people for thousands of years, and when at last He placed

them into Christ's hands, God was giving Jesus the responsibility of keeping God's Word. It was an awesome thing to do and we are blessed because Jesus did what was required of Him.

Christ honored God by perfectly accomplishing His mission. And we are the benefactors of that complete trust and obedience. If Jesus had wavered one little bit from His task, we would never have been forgiven by God. If He had left one single thing undone, we could never be restored to God's goodness, perfection, and holy love. God placed everything in Christ's hands because He loved Him. And Christ returned that love because He completed all that He was told to do.

Christ's continues that mission by placing into our hands opportunities, responsibilities, and tasks that both honor God and expand His Kingdom. He does this because He loves us. The question for us today is this: are we willing to return that love by completing all that He entrusts to us?

Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank You for completing all that God expected of You when He placed everything into Your hands. We are truly grateful for all that You did, for Your accomplishments have brought us eternal blessings. Empower and enable us to fulfill all that You call us to undertake for God's Kingdom and His glory. In Your Holy Name, we pray. Amen.

**HAPPY
NEW
YEAR**

PRAYER REQUESTS January 2009**MIDDLE EAST***Randy Genau* (grandson of Bob and Carol Alver)*Jamey Waters* (grandson of Ruth White's cousin)*Andrew Alger* (nephew of Susan Hannah)**TENNESSEE***Evelyn Jeffries* (grandparent of a student at Tate's)*Todd Lamson* (son of John Lamson, Erin's custodian)*Josie Wright* (child of a friend of Mike Bilbrey)*Cecilia Stinnett**Marion Sanks**Sue Rayburn**Angie Johnson* (friend of Margot Emery)*Margaret Casteel**Barry Robinson**Kari Matthews & Family**Lora Yard**Jimmy* (friend of Apryl Quinn and Kari Matthews)*Anne Estes* (friend of Sue Rayburn)*Marjorie Swanner**Mrs. Pat Swain**Georgia Parry* (friend of Ruth White and Jane Yancey)*Carolyn Chambers* (aunt of Denise Bilbrey)*Larry Parker, Sr.* (father in law of Kay Parker, one of Erin's nursery workers)**OKLAHOMA***Wanda Parr* (sister of John Lamson, Erin's custodian)**ILLINOIS***Dorothy Burns* (aunt of Allyson Streckfuss)**MARYLAND***Robert L. Cutts* (friend of Ray and Donna Schall)**MASSACHUSETTS***Marise Fallon* (friend of Cecilia Stinnett)**CALIFORNIA***Lisa Thompson* (daughter of Jim and Ginger Thompson)*Linda Gaspar* (sister of Dave Leckie)**SOUTH CAROLINA***Frances Gunter* (sister of Diane Montgomery)*Sara Mantle* (friend of Sara Leckie)**VIRGINIA***Enid Clarke* (sister of Ruth White)**GUATEMALA***Luis Angel* (student at the Guatemala School)

The Erin Presbyterian Church News is published monthly. Comments and submissions are welcome. Please submit articles by **Monday January 26** for inclusion in the next month's issue. Please send articles and/or calendar events via e-mail to "admin@erinpresbyterian.org".

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